



April 3, 2018

California Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 2191
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SCR 110 (Wiener) – SUPPORT

Dear Senate Health Committee Members:

On behalf of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality, we write to you in support of SCR 110 (Wiener), a resolution calling for an end to nonconsensual, medically unnecessary surgeries on children born with differences in sex development (DSD).

GLMA—previously known as the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association—is a national membership association of LGBT healthcare professionals and their allies whose mission is to ensure equality in healthcare for LGBT individuals and for LGBT healthcare professionals. Founded and incorporated in California in 1981 as the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, GLMA employs the expertise of our medical and health professionals in education, policy and advocacy, patient education and referrals and the promotion of research to improve the health and well-being of LGBT people and their families. Given GLMA’s California origins, traditionally around 20% of GLMA’s members have been based in California, while nearly 40% of its past presidents are physicians based in the state.

GLMA has long advocated for training of health professionals and students to address the significant and well-documented health disparities affecting LGBT populations and for policies to ensure LGBT patients receive clinically and culturally competent care. As part of these efforts, we have partnered with individuals and organizations, including interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth, to raise awareness among GLMA members and the health professional community as a whole about the health needs of the intersex/DSD community.

As early as 1998, GLMA supported efforts to ensure parents received full disclosure regarding the positive and negative effects of surgical intervention of DSD and that delaying surgical intervention was also an option. This position was backed by GLMA’s support for fully informed medical practices and the recognition of the potential for physical and psychological harm with surgical intervention.

In 2016, the GLMA Board of Directors approved a new position statement on the topic, titled “Medical and Surgical Intervention of Patients with Differences in Sex Development.” In the statement, GLMA calls for, among other actions:

- delay of any surgical interventions and gender-related medical interventions for DSD that are not deemed medically necessary until the patient can provide informed consent/assent to these interventions; and
- development of cultural competency education for health care professionals and development of best practice guidelines regarding treatment of individuals with DSD.

GLMA therefore strongly supports SCR 110 and the goals of the resolution to raise awareness about and address the health needs of children born with DSD, including the resolution's provisions in support of a delay in medically unnecessary surgeries until a child with DSD can provide meaningful consent.

We have included the GLMA position statement for your review and we strongly encourage Senate Health Committee members to act favorably on SCR 110.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need further information, please don't hesitate to contact us via email at hvargas@glma.org or 202-600-8037 ext. 314.

Sincerely,



Gal Mayer, MD, MS
GLMA President



Hector Vargas, JD
GLMA Executive Director

cc: Senator Hernandez, OD, Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Janet Nguyen, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Connie M. Leyva, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Holly J. Mitchell, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Bill Monning, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Newman, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Jim Nielsen, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Richard Pan, MD, Senate Committee on Health
Senator Richard D. Roth, Senate Committee on Health

Senator Scott Wiener, Sponsor, SCR 110